

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. By way of this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 9, 12 and 16. For the following reasons, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 9, 12 and 16 are in independent form. The Examiner has indicated that claim 7 contains allowable subject matter. However, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 and 8-16 under § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Shiga, et al. (U.S. Publication 2001/0028011 A1).

The Examiner has also rejected claims 1-8 under § 112 (second paragraph) as being indefinite. Applicant submits that the above amendments to the claims overcome the § 112 (second paragraph) rejection. However, Applicant respectfully traverses the prior art rejection.

The invention is directed to a recording tape cartridge (claims 1-8), a leader pin for use in a cassette case (claims 9-11), a method of manufacturing a recording tape cartridge (claims 12-15) and a method of holding a leader pin in a case (claim 16). Each of these claims includes the same basic invention. More specifically, as shown in Figures 3-5 of the application, according to the invention, a holding portion is provided in the ceiling wall and floor walls of the case for holding leader pin 22 in the vicinity of opening 20 through which the tape is withdrawn from the case. As recited in, for example, claim 1, the holding portions have cutouts 24c, which are continuous with the opening 20. The term "cutouts" is intended to refer to the through-slot 24c provided in the ceiling and floor walls and which extends from an interior surface of the respective wall to the exterior surface of the wall, as now recited in the claims.

Turning to the rejection, the Examiner contends that recesses 20 in the upper and lower cases 2 and 3 of Shiga, et al. corresponds to the claimed cut-outs. *See*, paragraph 4 of the Office Action. In other words, the Examiner is interpreting the word “cut-out” as reading on a recess; the Examiner does not interpret this limitation to require that the cut-out extend from an interior surface of the wall to an exterior surface, as in the present invention. In view of the clarifying amendments to the claims, Applicant submits that Shiga, et al. is no more pertinent than the admitted prior art discussed in the background portion of the application and illustrated in Figure 14, wherein the case includes recesses 70.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all claims pending in the application are allowable. It is therefore requested that the application be passed to issue at the earliest convenience.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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